

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03219 131558Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4947
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3219

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT-ELECT GUZMAN MEETS WITH CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE

REF SANTO DOMINGO 3182

1. PRESIDENT ELECT ANTONIO GUZMAN MET WITH NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF NEIT NIVAR SEIJAS YESTERDAY FOR HALF AN HOUR AT THE NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS. THE MEETING HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER (REFTEL).
2. GUZMAN TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT GENERAL NIVAR HAD PLEDGED TO HIM THAT HE WOULD RESPECT THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED PRISON REFORM (A GUZMAN CAMPAIGN PROMISE) AND PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S RECENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD SALARY INCREASES FOR ALL MILITARY AF PLICE PERSONNEL, WHICH GUZMAN SAID HE FAVORED.
3. COMMENT. THIS MEETING, WHICH FOLLOWS GUZMAN'S VISIT TO SECRETARY OF THE ARMED FORCES BEAUCHAMP AND OTHER SENIOR MILITARY LAST WEEK, IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE GENERAL NIVAR IS BLAMED BY MOST HERE AS THE AUTHOR OF THE MAY 17 MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NEVER ADMITTED THIS AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 03219 131558Z

REJECTED CHARGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS TO THAT EFFECT, NIVAR IS STILL SAID TO HARBOR RESENTMENT OVER THE PRD ELECTION VICTORY AND IS REPORTED TO BE CLOSELY LINKED TO REFORMISTA PARTY LEGAL CHALLENGES TO THE ELECTION RESULTS. HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THIS EFFORT IS SO MANIFEST THAT ONLY LAST WEEK VICE PRESIDENT ELECT JACOBO MAJLUTA PUBLICLY ASKED WHETHER NIVAR WAS RUNNING THE POLICE OR WAS TAKING HIS ORDERS FROM CHIEF

REFORMISTA LAWYER "VINCHO" CASTILLO. NIVAR WAS FORCED TO ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT NO ONE BUT HE IS IN CHARGE OF POLICE.

4. THUS, DEALING WITH THE POWERFUL AND AMBITIOUS NIVAR PROMISES TO BE ONE OF THE PRD'S GREATEST HEADACHES IN THE FUTURE. GUZMAN'S MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE, WITH WHOM HE REPORTEDLY HAS HAD SCARCE PREVIOUS CONTACT, IS BEING VIEWED HERE AS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF HIS TACTFUL MANNER OF MOVING FIRMLY INTO HIS PRESIDENTIAL ROLE.
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